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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Koethen

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 10 January 1950

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 March 1950

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Fliegerhorst Kaserne.

a. Occupied by 1,000 to 1,100 troops allegedly belonging to the following units:

- (1) Motorized infantry unit of about 500 men, equipped with personnel carriers and armored reconnaissance cars.
- (2) Unit of about 300 men, equipped with 76.2-mm AT guns.
- (3) Unit of about 300 men, equipped with 120 and 150-mm mortars.

b. Troops practiced an attack against fortified positions near Baasdorf on 10 January 1950. The defending troops numbered about 300 and wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Six emplaced 76.2-mm AT guns were observed with them. The attacking troops wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia and were equipped with six light armored reconnaissance cars and four 76.2-mm AT guns. The field exercises ended after penetrating into the defensive position and close combat with the defending troops.

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2. The county kommandatura on Kastanienstrasse had a personnel of about 80.

3. The MGB office was at 40 Kastanienstrasse.

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Comment:

a. According to previous information the following component units of the 7th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) are assumed to be stationed in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Koethen:

- (1) Elements of the 23rd Gds Mtz Rifle Regt (Cadre)
- (2) ? No. (4th Gds or 5th ?) Recon Bn
- (3) 440th RL Bn (Cadre)
- (4) ? No. (467th ?) Gds Mort Regt (Cadre).

b. The troops holding a field exercise near Baasdorf presumably belonged to the motorized rifle regiment.

c. The Koethen county kommandatura and the MGB office are known from previous reports.

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